



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

---

*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 312  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**March 17, 2004**

**Contact:**

**Thomas P. Colantuono**

**United States Attorney**

**Joseph N. Laplante**

**Assistant U.S. Attorney**

**(603) 225-1562 x 230**

**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**NORTHFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR  
ATTEMPTING TO TRADE ASSAULT RIFLE FOR "CRACK" COCAINE**

**Re: United States v. Shaun HIBBARD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, New Hampshire State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth, Tilton Police Chief Kent Chapman, and Northfield Police Chief Scott Hilliard announce that Shaun HIBBARD, DOB 6/5/80, of Northfield, New Hampshire was sentenced today of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

On December 17, 2003, HIBBARD entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe to an information charging him with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. At today's sentencing, Judge McAuliffe imposed a sentence of 60 months (5 years) imprisonment followed by a 5 year period of supervised release during which Hibbard's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

A State Trooper's affidavit submitted in support of the criminal complaint against HIBBARD, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, alleges that HIBBARD attempted to trade a semi-automatic rifle for an ounce of "crack" cocaine in Tilton, New Hampshire on July, 1, 2003.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of those involved in drug trafficking and other criminal activity is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit with assistance from the Tilton and Northfield Police Departments. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.